

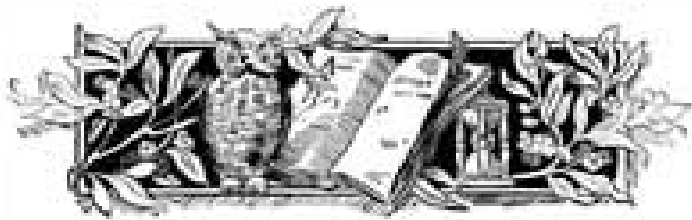


Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.

Deuteronomy 32:2-4

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Homeschooling. There is so much meaning to this word for all of us. Simply, it is the opportunity to educate our children at home- to be the one to teach my daughter how to read; to have the fun of teaching her how to regroup a 5-digit problem; to go to the park and bird watch so we can collect data in our field journal; to write a fabulous story together; to snuggle on the couch on a rainy day and enjoy a wonderful story, neither one of us willing to put the book down. But homeschooling is so much more than all of that. It is the blessing of being able to be with my girls all day, every day. I get to see all of their growth and all of their struggles. I understand them in a way nobody else does. I know the little things. I know exactly what lunch will bring the most smiles: cut off the crust and hold the mayonnaise please! And I know the big things. I stand in awe of my daughter's tenderness and compassion and what God is doing in her heart. I marvel at the never-ending joy that pours out of my preschooler. I feel so incredibly blessed that I get to be a part of their mornings, afternoons, and evenings. Most importantly, I am thankful for the time that homeschooling brings to our family to talk to our girls about the love, forgiveness, and grace of Jesus. *Deuteronomy 6: 5-7. "5Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."*

Then there is the other side of homeschooling isn't there? Somedays I just want to be anywhere but in my house...again. I sometimes hide when my neighbor with the immaculate house pops down for a visit. Every single room is a disaster....again. I can't even remember the last time I balanced my checkbook or dusted. Sigh. But the other day I was reminded of something else homeschooling has done for our family. I have been growing and learning, too. I have learned that time is precious and moves quickly. I have learned that having vacuum lines in my carpet when I leave for a trip aren't really important. I have learned that letting some things go is a necessity to staying sane. I am learning the beauty of praying for our needs as a family. I am realizing more and more how growth is so important for all of us. I won't always make decisions perfectly. I won't always respond correctly to different situations. But God is always with me, eager to forgive my mistakes and there to provide abundant grace for each new day. I realize that I have as much to teach my girls when I mess up as when I get it right. That truth brings so much peace.



A few years ago, someone gave me an anonymous article called “The Invisible Woman” that has stuck with me. “No one can say who built the great cathedrals - we have no record of their names. These builders gave their whole lives for a work they would never see finished. They made great sacrifices and expected no credit.”

The passion of their building was fueled by their faith that the eyes of God saw everything. A legendary story in the book told of a rich man who came to visit the cathedral while it was being built, and he saw a workman carving a tiny bird on the inside of a beam. He was puzzled and asked the man, "Why are you spending so much time carving that bird into a beam that will be covered by the roof? No one will ever see it." And the workman replied, "Because God sees."

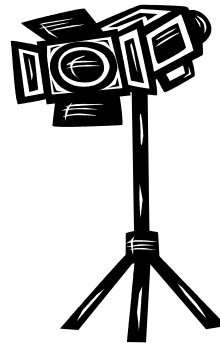
As homeschool parents, we are “building a great cathedral, but you can't see right now what it will become.” God is truly fashioning a beautiful masterpiece in our homes in our children, and in us. We are so blessed to watch Him work!

Written by: Rebecca Becker
March 2013



“Coordinator Spotlight”

While all of our coordinators and volunteers give all glory to God while they serve SHIELD, and would probably prefer to stay out of the spotlight, we thought you would enjoy getting to know them a little more!



[Josie Seacrist](#) serves SHIELD on the Yearbook Advisory Panel as the Business Advisor. Josie and her husband Paul have homeschooled for 13 years. They have 2 children; Lauren is in 12th grade, Tyler is in 9th grade.

Q. How long have you been in SHIELD?

A. *I have been with SHIELD for 2 years.*

Q. What is your favorite SHIELD activity/event?

A. *Despite all the work: Formal, it's a great celebration for the older students!*

Q. What is your favorite food?

A. *CHOCOLATE- it's how I get through those stressful days we homeschoolers have!*

Q. What is your favorite family activity?

A. *Watching NASCAR races together.*

Q. What is a favorite field trip your family has gone on?

A. *We took a trip and drove out to the Grand Canyon. It's great to see this beautiful and diverse country of ours.*

Q. What is your dream vacation?

A. *A trip around the world.*

Q. What is your favorite book?

A. *Pride and Prejudice.*

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. *Reading, scrapbooking, watching movies, and traveling.*



Calendar of Events

March 5 (Tues)	Field Trip: Saluda Shoals Nature Center, 9:15-11:00 am
March 8 (Fri)	Talent Night, New Life Church of Irmo/Ballentine, 7:00 pm
March 15 (Fri)	Academic Presentation Day, Lexington Baptist Church, 9:00 am
March 20 (Wed)	Field Trip: Barrier Island Eco Tour, 9:45 am
April 12 (Fri)	Field Trip: Ripley's Aquarium Sleepover
April 24-26 (Wed-Fri)	Iowa Standardized Testing
May 3 (Fri)	Field Trip: Battle of Columbia, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
May 10 (Fri)	Drama Club Presentation, Palmetto Church of Christ, Irmo, 7:00 pm
May 17 (Fri)	Achievement Night, Riverbend Church, Lexington

See below for details on many of these events

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

Colossians 3:23



SHIELD's Talent Night

Friday, March 8, 2013

7:00 pm

The New Life Church of Irmo/Balentine

It's that time of year again! This year promises to be an exciting one as we have secured another wonderful location for Talent Night. The New Life Church of Irmo/Balentine will be the setting for one of the most anticipated nights of the year!

Get ready to shine to the glory of God, kids! Everyone is welcome to join us!

Sign-ups are completed at this time. If you have any questions, please contact Danita Palazzolo at ddzolo@sc.rr.com.



Spring Academic Presentation Day

Friday, March 15, 2013
9:00 a.m. until 11:30-12:00
Lexington Baptist Church, Reception Room

Theme: **Art, Literature & Music**

Spring Academic Presentation day is a wonderful morning of 3-5 minute speeches by our students on a subject relating to literature, art, or music. Presentations of authors, artists, composers, or specific pieces of work are all appropriate, as well as anything else relating to those subjects. Children in grades 1 and 2 may just do a presentation board. Many of our older students do both a speech with a presentation board illustrating their topic. We will meet in the reception room (on the west side of the building--there will be a sign out front of the door) of the Lexington Baptist Church.

To sign-up, please contact Jennifer or Carolyn.

Deadline to sign-up is March 11.

Jennifer Cogle, coglefour@gmail.com, 261-9593

Carolyn Jackson, imacarolyn@gmail.com, 665-5159

All SHIELD members are invited to attend even if not presenting. Please contact Jennifer or Carolyn if you plan to attend so that they can have enough snacks prepared for everyone.



SHIELD IOWA Standardized Testing April 24-26, 2013

SHIELD offers standardized testing (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) as a service to members by members.

Wed. 4/24	Thurs. 4/25	Fri. 4/26
3rd grade	3rd - 8th grades	3rd - 12th grades

Registration for testing is now complete.

When: April 24^h through April 26^h. More specifically, 3rd graders test on the 24th through the 26th, 4th through 8th graders test the 25th and 26th and high schoolers test on the 26th. It sounds confusing, but the layered system has a purpose. 3rd graders have one additional test to take that the others do not. By starting them early we can both get that test done AND let our newest testers have additional time to get comfortable with the process before jumping in with everyone else. The high schoolers test only on Friday because many of them take classes at the Midland's Resource Center and this prevents conflicting schedules.

Location: First Baptist Church of Lexington on Barr Road.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Collins, SHIELD's Testing Coordinator, at 356-5858 or aikosmom@sc.rr.com.

Drama Club Play

"Friendship: The Silver-Lining of War"

May 10th, at 7:00 pm at
Palmetto Church of Christ in Irmo.
(7000 Nursery Rd, Columbia, SC 29212)

The yearbook staff and the drama club are excited to join together to present this play!

The yearbook students will be performing music and selling snacks while the drama students will be acting.

The play is educational as well as entertaining. If you are studying American History this year, it will be a great field trip for your family. Tickets will be \$2 per individual or \$5 per family and can be purchased at the door.

Any questions, or if you would like to help with the production of the play, please contact Leah at leah.tilghman@gmail.com.

Achievement Night Save the Date!

SHIELD's Achievement Night has been confirmed for the evening of Friday, May 17th at Riverbend Community Church.

More details coming soon!



THRILL

Teen Homeschoolers Radically Impacting Lexington County Lives

Those who serve, lead; and those who lead, serve.

Our THRILL calendar ends March 31st so that volunteer hours can be completed and submitted in time to have certificates and awards for Achievement Night in May. Please finalize hours through March 31 and submit to Elizabeth Collins by April 5th.

Details of the end-of-year THRILL party will be coming soon.

Possible serving opportunity May 18, 2013: Pet Pawty, a pet friendly fundraising event and pet food drive benefiting seniors and their pets. It will be held at Red Bank Horse Arena from 8:30 am - 2:00 pm. This would be a great opportunity for those of you that love animals and want to help raise money for Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission. Details will be sent to THRILL students soon.



For more information or if you have any questions, you can contact:

Michelle Steyne, mlsteyne@aol.com
Elizabeth Collins, aikosmom@sc.rr.com
Karen Collins, kscollins2@icloud.com

Yearbook News



Only '15' 2013 SHIELD yearbooks left for purchase!!

If you haven't yet bought a 2013 yearbook and would like to, send your check, made payable to SHIELD, to Josie Seacrist at 1149 Counts Ferry Rd, Lexington 29072. If you are unsure if you have purchased one yet or not, contact Josie at pjseacrist@yahoo.com.

2013 Yearbook Advisory Panel [YAP]

Leah Tilghman, coordinator, leah.tilghman@gmail.com
Teresa Andrews, layout advisor, teresaandrews38@yahoo.com
Wilenda Turner, photography advisor, wilendasemail@gmail.com
Josie Seacrist, business advisor, pjseacrist@yahoo.com
Jessica Sims, training advisor, jess.sims@gmail.com

Field trip:
Saluda Shoals Nature Center

Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2013
Time: 9:15 am – 11:00 am
Cost: \$2.50/student
Contact: Amanda Smith, 518-7720
smithfamilyfrogs@yahoo.com

The class for grades K-3 will be "Wetlands"
The class for grades 4-8 will be "Ornithology" (includes owl pellet dissection)

There is a limit of 25 students in each group. If you need to send your children to different groups, just let me know and we will arrange for a parent from one group to "watch out for" your child(ren).

To register for the class, please email me with your child's name and grade. Payment may be made via PayPal to smithfamilyfrogs@yahoo.com or you may mail a check for \$2.50/participating student payable to Amanda Smith at 221 Creek Branch Drive, Lexington, SC 29072.

Directions to Saluda Shoals: 5605 Bush River Rd. Columbia, SC 29212. From Lexington, go up North Lake (6) over the dam, then turn right on Bush River Rd. The entrance will be on your right in 2 - 2 1/2 miles, very clearly marked, large entryway. Tell them at the gate that you are attending a class with SHIELD in the Environmental Education Center. The seating area inside is where we will meet.

If you are going to be late that morning, call me at 518-7720 to let me know. The instructors like to begin promptly to ensure maximum instructional time.

Looking forward to a great educational experience together!



Field trip:
Barrier Island Eco Tours
Isle of Palms, SC

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2013
Time: Check in at 9:45 am, est. time 4.5 hours
Cost: \$22/person (all ages)
Ages: 5 and up
Contact: April Wallace, aprilw1982@yahoo.com

Venture to Capers Island, one of the few remaining undeveloped barrier islands. We will cruise through winding tidal creeks to find diverse wildlife living in this salt marsh environment. Common sightings include bottlenose dolphin, osprey, pelicans, herons, egrets, and more. Along the way we'll employ various nets and traps for an up-close look at some of the creatures that thrive below the surface.

Payment for this trip will be broken up into two payments. First one of \$10 per person is due at sign up. NO EXCEPTIONS. **Final payment was due on January 17, 2013.**

Bring Bag Lunch

Contact April Wallace with any questions or concerns you may have, 803-727-0887 or aprilw1982@yahoo.com.



Field trip:
Ripley's Aquarium Sleepover
Myrtle Beach, SC



Date: Friday, April 12, 2013
Time: Check in at 7:45 pm, check out at 7:30 am
Cost: \$55/person (all ages are same price)
Ages: 4 and up
Contact: April Wallace, aprilw1982@yahoo.com

I am so excited to share this opportunity with fellow homeschoolers! We will need at least 15 people to go (including adults) and as many as 100 can attend. I realize the price point is high and to make it more "affordable" for large families, a payment plan will be offered. It will be broken down into two payments of \$27.50 per person. First payment will be due when registering. NO EXCEPTIONS. Second will be due Friday March 1, 2013. The payments are NON-Refundable. I have paid the original deposit to hold the date and will not be refunded in the event of a cancellation. If you see that you won't be able to attend you can get someone else to fill in for you.

Payments can be made to April Wallace via check or cash. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me @ 803-727-0887. If you would like to mail your deposit, email me and I will send over my address.

Count sharks instead of sheep while drifting off to sleep in our Dangerous Reef Tunnel in this exciting overnight adventure! Unlock the mysteries of the aquarium at night through learning activities designed to meet the needs any age group from 3 to 103!

Sample Sleepover Schedule

- An aquarium scavenger hunt
- A craft activity
- An educational presentation
- A late night snack (chips and drink) and a continental breakfast (cereal, mini muffins, juice)
- A self-guided aquarium tour
-
- **What to bring:**
- A white t-shirt to "Fish print" on
- A sleeping bag
- A pillow and if desired, a pad or air mattress.

Field trip:**Battle of Columbia Living History and Education Day**

Date: Friday, May 3, 2013
Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Cost: Students \$3 each, parents are free
Plan to bring a packed lunch.
Contact: Leslie Ballard, wahoolb@bellsouth.net

There are 15 educational stations that run 15 to 20 mins. each. Here is a list of the educational stations:

- *Naval Submarine-HL Hunley-the full size replica will be on site for the class
- *Infantry Campsite- learn how the troops lived
- *Infantry Drill- re-enactors explaining weapons and accoutrements
- *Cavalry-re-enactors demonstrating maneuvers
- *Artillery-re-enactors discussing artillery pieces and showing shells used during the war
- *Blacksmith and Forging Operations
- *19th Century Military Engineering
- *Medical and Surgical presentation
- *SC Confederate Relic Room and Artifacts
- *1860's Carpentry
- *1860's Cooking
- *Ladies Fashions
- *Post Office
- *First person impression of Generals Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Jeb Stuart
- *Entertaining drama about a soldier returning home from war

The deadline to register has passed. For those of you who signed up, I will be emailing you the teachers guide and letting you know when I need the payments for the trip.

See <http://www.wadehamptoncamp.org/bfc-index.html> to learn more about the Battle of Columbia Living History and Educational Day.

Members' Services

Do you or someone in your family have a service to offer other homeschoolers? If so, please send the information to Karen Collins at kscollins2@icloud.com.

Babysitters:

Hannah Goude, Red Cross Certification in babysitting and CPR
(803) 951-0943 or 312-4095. janeygoude@sc.rr.com

Lauren Goude, Red Cross Certification in babysitting and CPR
(803) 951-0943 or 312-4095. janeygoude@sc.rr.com

Other:

Sherri Almeida, Owner of Palmetto Children's Music, LLC (Locations in Columbia and Lexington)
We offer music classes for children birth to age five and the adults who love them. (803) 546-7930
www.PalmettoChildrensMusic.com

Shelley Cannon - Bee Trail Farm, LLC – we sell local bees and honey! 803.360.7978 Beetrailfarm@gmail.com

John B. Lane, C.P.A., Tax services, Financial accounting, Payroll services, Business consulting, www.johnblane.com, [877-408-0200](tel:877-408-0200). Office is in Elgin, but John can meet clients throughout the Lexington/Columbia area.

Kayla Tilghman, Melodic Memories, advanced student violinist with other strings accompaniment. For weddings and other special events. For more information please email melodicmemories2@gmail.com or contact Leah Tilghman at 920-8475.

Brandy Watts, Phebe Sky - children's clothing Etsy shop, www.etsy.com/shop/PhebeSky?ref=si_shop

Jake Bingler, The Improvement Company, home remodeling and repairs, (803) 553-5302, wbingler@sc.rr.com

Mandy Dufries, BC Spa Consultant, (803)996-1379 or (803)917-8012, mdufriesbcspa@gmail.com, www.beautipage.com/mandydufries

Rebecca Becker, Thirty-One Gifts Consultant, www.mythirtyone.com/rbecker, jandbbecker@aol.com, 785-2237

Tommy Barnhill, Barnhill Automotive-Honda Car Service and Repair, 772-5144

Todd & Katherine Shealy, SheBees Honey Farm, (803) 532-8444.

Sally Lucas, Coldwell Banker Realtor 803-760-0289, sally@sallylucashomes.com

Michael Lucas, Mortgage Broker with Coldwell Banker Mortgage, 803-315-8880, michael.lucas@mortgagefamily.com

Laura Scaggs and Sherrie Morrison (Laura's mom): Bluegreen Resort rentals (www.bluegreenonline.com)
Fantastic opportunities for year-round "field trip vacations"! Contact Laura at 477-1667 or email glebs4@windstream.net or Sherrie at mismo5@hotmail.com

SHIELD Leadership & Coordinator Panel

2012-2013

Strategy Team Leader	Tracy Taylor	ttaylor24@sc.rr.com	834-0316
Financial/Membership Team Leader	Beth Martin	bethsmartin@hotmail.com	957-6005
Communications Team Leader	Karen Collins	kscollins2@icloud.com	445-6043
Website Coordinator	Jesseca Bennett	angelmommy2nd@sc.rr.com	
Student Club	Mandy Dufries	sixdufries@gmail.com	996-1379
Library/Book Sale Coordinator	Jenny Stallings	Jen9874@msn.com	808-5365
Field Day Coordinator	Ellen Nagelvoort	adamandellen@windstream.net	960-8312
Field Trip Panel	Rebecca Becker	jandbbecker@aol.com	785-2237
	April Wallace	aprilw1982@yahoo.com	727-0887
	Heather Schaub (Park Days also)	theschaubs@juno.com	233-4059
	Amanda Smith	smithfamilyfrogs@yahoo.com	808-0725
	Kathryn Graham	billinsky@sc.rr.com	528-4712
	Leslie Ballard	wahoolb@bellsouth.net	796-4190
Academic Presentation Day Coordinators	Jennifer Cogle	coglefour@gmail.com	261-9593
	Carolyn Jackson	imacarolyn@gmail.com	665-5159
THRILL Advisory Panel	Michelle Steyne	mlsteyne@aol.com	796-9090
	Elizabeth Collins	aikosmom@sc.rr.com	356-5858
	Karen Collins	kscollins2@icloud.com	445-6043
Yearbook Advisory Panel	Leah Tilghman (Yearbook Coordinator)	leah.tilghman@gmail.com	920-8475
	Teresa Andrews (Layout Advisor)	teresaandrews38@yahoo.com	520-7222
	Josie Seacrist (Business Advisor)	pjseacrist@yahoo.com	957-8707
	Wilenda Turner (Photography Advisor)	wilendasemail@gmail.com	608-8005
Standardized Testing Coordinator	Elizabeth Collins	aikosmom@sc.rr.com	356-5858
Talent Showcase Coordinator(s)	Danita Palazzolo	ddzolo@sc.rr.com	520-6695
Mid-year Meeting Coors.	Darby Reeves	preeves1@sc.rr.com	951-8489
	Leslie Buzzell	jlbuzzell@gmail.com	359-1934
Achievement Night Panel	AN Coordinator Leadership Team	ttaylor24@sc.rr.com	834-0316
	Decorating/Food Janet Prince	jhprince@aol.com	796-8777
	1-11 th Certificates		
	K5 Graduation Holly Winters	hwinters@sc.rr.com	
	Senior Coordinator Linda Barnhill	elbeemee@gmail.com	772-3184

About Our Newsletter...

Newsletter submissions must be received by March 25 for inclusion in the April newsletter.

The SHIELD Encourager Newsletter is published monthly and e-mailed to our members at the beginning of every month (except June & July). If you have an item you would like to submit, contact Karen Collins at kscollins2@icloud.com.